

FLIGHT JACKET

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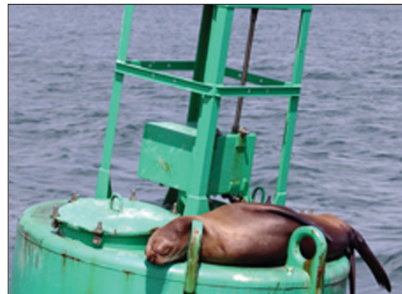
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Chargers salute service members



Marines, sailors and Coastguardsmen present their respective service colors alongside the American flag during the National Anthem. The display was a part of the opening ceremony at the San Diego Chargers first pre-season game and Salute to the Military night. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn M. Scarboro. SEE RELATED STORY, page 6.

Christian hands over command

Story by Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn M. Scarboro

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Colonel Paul C. Christian turned over command of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar to Col. Christopher E. O'Connor in a ceremony Aug. 11 at 3 p.m. on the flight line.

Christian was assigned as Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area and MCAS Miramar on July 11, 2003 and assumed the duty of acting commander, MCABWA and Miramar from September 2003 to April 2004. On Jan. 6, 2006 Christian was assigned as commanding officer of MCAS Miramar.

Christian retired during the ceremony, ending his 31-year Marine Corps career. He was awarded a Legion of Merit with a gold star in lieu of a second award.

see **CHANGE**,
page 4



Col. Paul C. Christian, the outgoing commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar welcomes new station commanding officer Col. Christopher E. O'Connor and his wife, Deborah. Christian was awarded the Legion of Merit with a gold star in lieu of second award during the change of command ceremony. Photo by Richard P. Tudor



Maj. Gen. Samuel T. Helland
Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



Col. Christopher E. O'Connor
Commanding Officer
MCAS Miramar

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Bush: Push ‘Freedom Agenda’

Story by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – America will remain on the offensive against al Qaeda and nations that support terror groups, President Bush said here today.

Bush met with Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Gen. Peter Pace and other members of his national security team at the Pentagon and the State Department.

The group discussed progress in the global war on terror and national security transformation during the series of meetings.

During a news conference at the State Department following the meetings, Bush said Iran must stop its support for terror. He also said militias and other groups must disarm.

He said the Middle East is at a pivotal moment in history. “The death and destruction we see shows how determined the extremists are to stop just and modern societies from emerging in the region,” he said. “Yet millions of people in Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere are equally determined to live in peace and freedom. They have tired of the false promises and grand illusions of radical

extremists.”

He said the United States’ “freedom agenda” will advance peace in the region. “We know that free nations are America’s best partners for peace and the only true anchors for stability,” he said. “So we’ll continue to support reformers inside and outside governments who are working to build the institutions of liberty. We’ll continue to confront terrorist organizations and their sponsors who destroy innocent lives. We’ll continue to work for the day when a democratic Israel and a democratic Palestine are neighbors in a peaceful and secure Middle East.”

The president called the U.N. Security Council resolution on Lebanon an important step to help bring an end to the violence between Israel and the terror group Hezbollah. The resolution calls for all nations to help Lebanon restore sovereignty through all Lebanese territory. “As well, the resolution is intended to stop Hezbollah from acting as a state within a state,” Bush said during the news conference.

He said Hezbollah is responsible for the conflict, but that Iran and Syria share some of that responsibility. “The regime in Iran provides Hezbollah with financial support, weapons and training,” the president said. “Iran

has made clear that it seeks the destruction of Israel. We can only imagine how much more dangerous this conflict would be if Iran had the nuclear weapon it seeks.”

Syria also sponsors the terror group and allows Iranian weapons to enter Lebanon and Hezbollah’s leaders to operate out of Damascus, the president said. “Syria supports Hezbollah because it wants to undermine Lebanon’s democratic government and regain its position of dominance in the country,” Bush said. “That would be a great tragedy for the Lebanese people and for the cause of peace in the Middle East.”

America has worked to promote peace, freedom and stability in the region, but terror groups and regimes worked against that ideal, Bush said. “We saw the consequences on Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorists brought death and destruction to our country, killing nearly 3,000 of our citizens,” he said.

The United States will continue to push the freedom agenda, but it will not be easy, the president said. “The way forward’s going to be difficult.

It will require more sacrifice,” he said. “But we can be confident of the outcome because we know and understand the unstoppable power of freedom.”

Pace discusses U.S. Military values

Story by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

BAGHDAD – Misdeeds by service members in Iraq, while rare, give the world the wrong impression of what the U.S. military stands for, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said during a visit here yesterday.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Gen. Peter Pace spoke to more than 1,300 military members about the importance of their service during a visit in Fallujah, Iraq, Aug. 13. Pace was in Iraq to meet with U.S. military commanders and visit the troops.

Pace said the incidents, which include the alleged murder of Iraqi civilians in Haditha and the alleged rape and murder of an Iraqi girl and her family south of Baghdad, reflect badly on all American service members and represent only a tiny portion of the Americans who have served in Iraq.

“It’s not who we are as a nation; it’s not who we are as an armed force,” Pace said. He said that when the allegations surfaced, Marine Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee visited thousands of deployed Marines to reinforce just how Marines are supposed to act.

“We’ve had between 1 million and 1.5 million Americans deploy to the Gulf,” Pace said. “A small fraction of them have done things that we know for sure were wrong.” He called such

acts and those who commit them “unacceptable.”

“And we will deal with that,” the chairman promised.

Pace said that with the exception of the Haditha incident, all the others were reported via the chain of command. He said this proves the system works.

Pace visited with U.S. military leaders in Baghdad yesterday, including Multinational Force Iraq Commander Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr.; Army Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, commander of the effort training Iraqi security forces; and Army Maj. Gen. James Thurman, Multinational Division Baghdad commander. Pace said the generals discussed ongoing operations, trends for the future, U.S. troop levels in Iraq and progress in training the Iraqi security forces to shoulder the responsibility for defending their nation.

Pace acknowledged the sectarian violence in the Iraqi capital has concerned him, but said he is confident that Iraqi and coalition forces can get a handle on it. However, he said, the Iraqis themselves must decide they do not want that type of violence in their country. Only then, he said, can the coalition begin reducing its troop numbers in the country.

There are problems in Iraq, but there are also signs of hope, he said. “Despite all the violence, there are still between 4,000 and 5,000 tips per month reported by the Iraqi people,” Pace said.

Miramarks



Lance Cpl. Joshua C. Shirey
Military Policeman
MWSS-373

“I like to play pool, so maybe some pool tournaments in there.”



Cpl. Dustin K. Kokes
Airframer
HMM-163

What could the E-club do to boost attendance ?

“If they redesigned the inside to a more modernized club it would be a good hang-out.”

Briefs

Recruiter assistance

Recruiting Stations Salt Lake City and Twin Cities are giving Marines the chance to receive PTAD orders to assist with the recruiters at their substations. If you want to earn promotion points, Meritorious Mast, Certificate of Commendation and many other incentives available contact Staff Sgt. Velis at (801) 954-0423 for RS Salt Lake City or Master Gunnery Sgt. Bautista at (763) 576-9049 for RS Twin Cities.

The Old Globe Theater

The Old Globe Theater staff wishes to invite military personnel on active duty, retirees, reservists, DoD civilians and family members to a complimentary performance of "The Sisters Resensweig." Tickets are available for Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m.. Stop by the Entertainment Ticket Office and pick up your free tickets (limit of two per military I.D.).

For more information contact, the theater at (619) 234-5623.

C-20 Selection Board

Per MARDMIN number 380/06 on Nov. 17, 2006 the C-20 selection board will meet to select one primary and one alternate pilot for assignment to sustain C-20G pilot requirements at Marine Corps Air Facilities Hawaii. This board is intended for active-duty captains and majors with minimum experience of 1,500 hours total military flying time for rotary wing pilots, 1,200 hours total military flying time for fixed wing pilots. The individual must be able to obtain a passport and secret clearance.

First-Term Alignment Plan

Per MARADMIN 31/06, the Manpower Management Enlisted Assignment Branch will hold selection boards for first-term Marines in designated fast filling military occupational specialties in order to ensure quality reenlistments and fair handling of all cases. MMEA encourages all FY07 first term Marines to request reenlistment early to give themselves a better chance of a spot.

Mom or Dad Deployed?

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Youth and Teen Center is hosting a gathering for children of deployed Marines and sailors every first and third Monday of each month.

Children ages 8 to 10 meet from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m., ages 11 to 13 meet from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 577-1322.

Story and photos by Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Approximately 250 Marines and sailors deployed with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar early afternoon Aug. 15, after a six month deployment to the Western Pacific and Middle East Region.

When the formation of CH-46E Sea Knight and CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters flew by, the families of the Marines and sailors erupted in cheers as they crowded the front of the hangar, anxiously awaiting the arrival of their loved ones.

"I couldn't sleep today," said Evelyn Carranza, the mother of Lance Cpl. Jose Carranza, avionics electrician technician, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. "I've been waiting so long for this moment. It's the first time that my son has been gone for this long and I can't wait for him to get back so I can spend as much time as possible with him and cook him all of his favorite foods."

Carranza, who just turned 21 years old on Sunday, surprised his family by coming through the back door of the hangar, where he was immediately smothered by his two siblings and girlfriend.

"It feels great to be back home and with my family," said Carranza, a Rialto, Calif., native. "Overall, it was a good first deployment and I really learned a lot over there."

In addition to performing several aviation and amphibious operations, Carranza and the rest of the deployed Marines and sailors conducted sustainment training in both Townsville, Australia and in Kuwait, maintaining mission readiness throughout the deployment.

After training in Kuwait, approximately 50 Marines from the MEU headed to the American Embassy in Doha, Qatar, in support of Exercise Eagle Resolve, a joint military exercise involving the members of the Embassy's United States Liaison Office, Consular Section, Marine Security Guards, the Regional Security Office, and American citizens living in Doha.

During the simulated non-combatant evac-

uation exercise, the Marines escorted the American citizens to the CH-46s outside the Embassy. The exercise ensured the event of a real-life evacuation, the U.S. citizens would be safe and the Embassy would be ready.

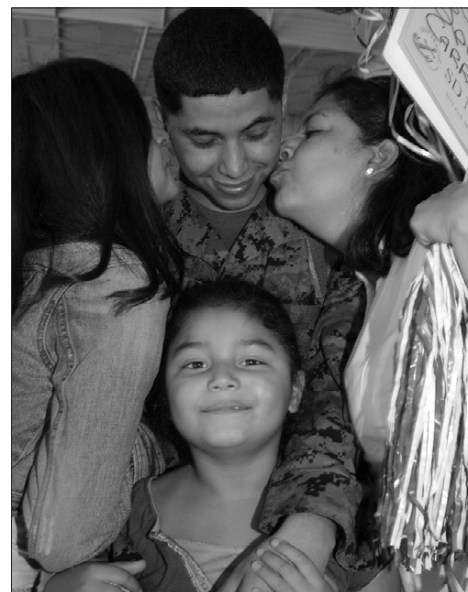
"This was the first time in 13 years that I've ever experienced something like this," said Maj. Kurt Strange, future operations officer, HMM-166. "This was a great morale booster for the younger enlisted aircrew. It also gave the American citizens a great feeling and everyone left feeling very appreciated."

According to the Pineville, La., native, the MEU suffered zero fatalities or mishaps, and successfully completed all of their missions.

"We had a lot of odds stacked against us," Strange said. "We had several new lieutenants and crew chiefs that just checked in during our pre-deployment training and had only nine months to train before our composite with the MEU, but in the end, we pulled it off."

The Carranza family is just happy to have the Marines back home safely.

"I'm so thankful, not to just have my son back home safely, but all of the Marines," said Carranza's mother. "We're all so very proud of each of them."



Lance Cpl. Jose Carranza (center), avionics electrician technician, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, Marine Aircraft Group 16, surrounds himself with loved ones during his homecoming Aug. 15. Carranza and approximately 250 Marines and sailors returned to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar after a six-month deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit to the Western Pacific and Middle East Region.



Sgt. Derek Hayden's wife holds up a photo of the T-64 engine mechanic from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, during a homecoming celebration at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Aug. 15.

Corps uses MySpace, modernizes recruiting

Lance Cpl. Terence L. Yancey
III MEF Public Affairs

CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA, Japan -- The Marine Corps has established a profile on the popular social networking Web site, MySpace.com, in order to spread interest and boost its recruiting mission, according to officials from Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

The Marine Corps recruiting profile features videos, desktop wallpapers and a link that helps visitors contact a recruiter through Marines.com, the Corps' official recruiting Web site.

More than 14,500 users have signed up as friends of the Marine Corps on the popular site, which boast 98 million registered users.

"The objective of advertising on MySpace.com is to generate awareness of the Marine Corps and direct interested men and women to the Marines.com Web site for more information," said Sgt. Brian J. Griffin, community relations chief for the Marine Corps Recruiting Command's Public Affairs Office.

The Corps' overall goal is to put individuals in contact with a Marine recruiter who can answer questions and screen interested potential recruits. Since its creation in February 2006, the MySpace.com link has led 50,000 people to Marines.com, according to Griffin.

Over the years, Marine Corps recruiting has taken advantage of new technologies. In more recent years, a lot of focus has been placed on television and the internet.

With the growing popularity of blogging and online social networking, the Marine Corps has stepped up to tap into the new medium.

In 2004, recruiters from Recruiting Station Los Angeles, Culver City sub station, would get 25-30 contacts a month through Marines.com, according to Staff Sgt. Ernie Mena, a former recruiter with the station who is currently the armory chief for 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, currently serving as the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's battalion landing team.

Mena said he has seen the Marine Corps' use of computers and the internet develop rapidly during his career.

"Most of us didn't have computers when I joined, but now they're everywhere," Mena said. "MySpace is a great tool to attract young adults nowadays because most of them spend a lot of time behind a computer."

"The Marine Corps and J. Walter Thompson, the Corps' contracted advertising agency, continually evaluate opportunities and mediums to spread our message of opportunity to young men and women," Griffin said. "The MySpace.com Web site came out of this process as an appropriate medium to reach our target market."

The Marine Corps also advertises on MySpace with banner ads.

The Army, which currently advertises on the site, has plans to launch a similar profile in the near future, according to a report by the Associated Press. The Air Force also advertises on the site but doesn't currently have any plans for creating a profile.

So far, the Marine Corps has spent \$112,000 on the Myspace.com advertising campaign, Griffin added.

MySpace, in its current form, was created in 2003 by Tom Anderson and was sold to News Corp. in 2005 for \$580 million.

CHANGE,
continued from page 1

Christian announced at the ceremony that he will continue to fly as an industrial pilot, staying in the San Diego area with his wife Deborah.

When Maj. Gen. Michael R. Lehnert, commanding general, Marine Corps Installations West, introduced Christian, he reminisced of the times he called the CO's office, only to be told that Christian was out flying.

"For his future employers, we are sending you the best trained aviator colonel in the Marine Corps. You are so lucky," joked Maj. Gen. Lehnert.

Christian took the microphone after graciously accepting his medal. After addressing his family, loved ones, comrades in arms and future employers, Christian said his final good-bye to MCAS Miramar and congratulated the new commanding officer.

"I guess it's time for me to go," said Christian as he happily handed over the microphone, along with command of the base. "It's a great day to be alive, a great day to be an American Marine."

"You're a hard act to follow and your presence will be felt here for years and years to come," said O'Connor.

O'Connor addressed the change of command attendees and then turned to face his new Marines.

"It's a privilege to be here today and an honor I am humbled by," he said. "You have a tremendous reputation and its an honor to be a part of your team. I look forward to working with you, continuing the great work you are doing, to meet each and every one of you. Thank you very much for all you've done and I'm excited and look forward to the future."

O'Connor was last assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps as the Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Prior to that he served as the G-3 and Assistant Wing Commander of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

S-shops keep Hawk's operations moving

Story and photo by
Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

3rd MAW Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq – The pilots and aircraft maintainers of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 533, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), are responsible for making sure the squadron's F/A-18D Hornets provide the best aviation support possible to ground forces in the Al Anbar Province.

While the pilots and aircraft maintainers spend long hours flying and fixing the jets, there is another group of Marines in the squadron that manage the Hawk's personnel records, intelligence, training and operations, logistics and communications.

Those Marines belong to support sections and are commonly known as the S-shops.

According to Lance Cpl. Christopher B. Lampson, the personnel administrative shop's three enlisted Marines handle all of the squadron's mail, pay issues, awards, promotions and anything else to do with a Marine's service record.

"Out here we get a lot of pay questions and issues, and it's our job to help Marines understand their pay. We're here for the Marines. They know that if they have any pay problems they can come to us, and we're going to fix it. If we do our job then they are out there worrying about what those jets are doing and not their pay," said Lampson, a personnel clerk and Brownwood, Texas, native. "Really our job isn't any different out here than in the rear, a lot of the same work just in a different location. All I need is a copier, scanner and a com-



Sgt. Robert T. Criblear holds a power converter in his office located in the headquarters of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 533, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), at Al Asad, Iraq, May 3. Criblear and his fellow supply and logistic Marines ensure the squadron has working utilities, food and clean laundry. Criblear is the VMFA(AW)-533 embark and logistics chief and a Philadelphia native.

puter with email capability and I can operate."

Knowledge on the modern battlefield is often the key to success and the intelligence section for the Hawks makes sure the squadron has the information necessary to carry out their high-flying missions.

"I would say our piece of the mission is pretty important. We prepare morning and evening briefs of all the previous days significant events for the pilots, letting them know about any threats out there that they should be aware of," said Cpl. Terence L. Lambert, intel-

ligence analyst and Gadsden, Ala., native. "Every now and then we'll create maps for the pilots, but most of the time the maps come from the ground guys. The pilots use them while they're speaking with the forward air controllers to make sure they're looking at the same building for example."

The intelligence section also includes the squadron's ground station where five additional intelligence Marines examine the photos taken by cameras aboard the squadron's Hornets.

"We analyze the pictures, but basically we work for the ground guys. Anybody that wants imagery can task (the Hawks). We're a tactical asset that the ground units can request information from on a hotspot," said Sgt. Kay Dee Kirt, imagery analyst and Gillette, Wyo., native. "Unfortunately, we really don't get much feedback from the ground guys, but we know that they're grateful for the information."

Right next door to the intelligence section, the operation and training section's four Marines partner with the squadron's pilots to track the details of their flights.

"I do anything to assist the pilots documentation of flight information. It's important to keep track of their flight hours, what mission type it was, how many sorties, basically what they have done on that flight," said Sgt. Jason L. Contos, assistant operations chief, and a Woodbridge, Va., native. "The four of us work 12 on and 12 off. When the pilots are flying a lot, we're busy, and they fly a lot out here, probably three times as much as in the United States."

Centered in the middle of their headquarters are the four Marines assigned to the Hawk's supply and logistics section, who are responsible for the squadron's embarkation and supplies.

"Before the deployment, we made all the arrangements, packed all the gear, and organized transportation, billeting and the loading of all the planes," said Sgt. Robert T. Criblear, embark and logistics chief. "When we got here, we made sure everybody was functional. Now we make sure everybody has what they need to work everyday."

Troops honored in Chargers' pre-season salute

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn M. Scarboro

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

“It doesn’t matter what team they’re rooting for, they’re our team,” said Tom F. Stephens, his smile shining through his green and yellow face paint. “They’re our heroes.”

The Wisconsin native, and current San Diego resident, attended the San Diego Chargers pre-season opener against the Green Bay Packers at Qualcomm Stadium Saturday.

It was the 18th annual Salute to the Military night and although the fans may have cheered for different football teams, it was clear that night, everyone was cheering for the troops.

“They are what it’s all about,” agreed Stephen’s wife, Barb, her green face covered with the yellow letters G-O.

Walking through the crowd with green, cheese pants, face paint, a cheese wedge earring and the traditional cheese headdress of Packers fans, Stephens got curious looks from strangers as he proudly supported his team.

But Stephens showed his true colors when he shook the hand of every service member he walked past. Formerly in the Navy, Stephens has a great respect for the assistance service members provide for America.

“They’re the heroes of the country, keeping us safe,” he explained.

The Chargers Salute to the Military was full of fun for all of the fans. Military performances including the National Anthem, during which Marines, sailors and Coastguardsmen held up an enormous American flag in the middle of the field. A static display of military

combat vehicles was provided at the stadium entrance and fans climbed on a pull-up bar and challenged the near-by recruiters.

Children stared in awe at the Navy SEAL Leapfrogs as they parachuted from the sky wearing Chargers jerseys.



Maj. Gen. Samuel T. Helland, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (right), and Rear Adm. Michael H. Miller, commander of Carrier Strike Group Seven (left), stand next to the referee during the coin toss of the San Diego Chargers against the Green Bay Packers game, Saturday. The Chargers' pre-season opener was dedicated to local service members as Salute to the Military night.

Maj. Gen. Samuel T. Helland, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, along with Rear Adm. Michael H. Miller, commander of Carrier Strike Group 7, represented their respective services at the coin toss, kicking off the game.

Mothers and fathers cried, as 150 San Diego area poolies that are their sons and daughters swore an oath, enlisting them into the Navy or the Marine Corps.

Many off the attendees weren’t the only people who appreciated the work of the military and their presence at the game.

Referee Bob Weishan felt great pride at the site of the special event.

“I’m proud of these young men (and women) who came out here and took their oath,” he said, about the new, soon-to-be Marines. “I think that’s the greatest thing.”

A Marine from 1948-52, Weishan knew it took a lot of heart for the poolies to enlist, but he knew it would take even more for them to become one of the troops who were being honored at the game.

“They are going to have a good awakening when they make it to (boot-camp),” he added. “I just want to wish them smooth seas and gentle winds.”

For the San Diego Chargers, the game was the beginning of a new season. For others, it was the beginning of so much more.



At the back of the stadium, across from the Chargers' flag, an American and a POW/MIA flag were both raised for the service members being honored during Salute to the Military night. The Chargers have traditionally celebrated local military members at their pre-season opener for the last 18 years.

Seaport Village: Gateway to San Diego

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

As the week ends and the weekend begins, plans for entertainment might become a concern for some service members.

Many Marines aren't aware of all the exciting, and inexpensive, things they can do while in the San Diego area, including Seaport Village, a shopping and dining complex located here.

Seaport Village was built on a landfill over Punta de los Muertos, or Point of the Dead, where the Spanish Expedition of 1782 buried their crewmembers who died of scurvy.

The Gold Rush brought many people to the area and the land was turned into railroad yards where goods and other products were unloaded from ships and sent on trains heading east.

The new and improved Seaport Village broke ground in 1978 and had its grand opening in 1980, making it a dining and shopping area that is second to none.

With more than 40, one-of-a-kind shops selling everything from collectibles and clothing to high-end jewelry. Tourists can buy anything from a Seaport Village souvenir t-shirt to an engagement ring for that special someone.

Stephanie Kaylor, a young woman who loves swing music, enjoyed the live entertainment offered at Seaport Village and danced with the other men and women who were at the village August 5.

"I had such a great time here last year, I had to come back again," said Kaylor, a Phoenix, native. "My family and I had been here before, and it is as good now as it was then."

Seaport Village also offers four, award-winning restaurants and 13 sidewalk eateries.

One restaurant, The Harbor House, has an elegant atmosphere and offers world-famous steaks and an oyster bar, which is as mouth watering as it is kind to the eye.

There is entertainment at Seaport Village for all ages, with weekly concerts in two plazas and strolling musicians throughout the village and free concerts every Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Children of any age can also enjoy an



A view of the San Diego skyline is visible while walking along the harbor at Seaport Village. The village, which is located in downtown San Diego, offers more than 54 unique vendors as well as award winning entertainment and live music seven days a week.



Seal lions and birds are an attraction in the San Diego Bay. Visitors can take an amphibious tour through the downtown and bay area, where wildlife as well as natural beauty is visible.

1890's Loeff Carousal. The carousel has animals that were hand carved by Charles Loeff, a German-born artist who moved to the U.S. in 1870. The ride has toured many cities across America and landed in Seaport Village in 2004. The beautiful artistry of the carvings are a must-see for any new visitor.

Another great thing to do in the village is hop on a tour and see the sites of San Diego. The Cinderella Carriage Company and San Diego SEAL Tours both provide

tours of the beautiful sea fronts and downtown area for around \$30.

Seaport Village is located at 849 W. Harbor Drive in downtown San Diego and is open daily from 10:00 am to 9:00 p.m. Visitors can also observe a breathtaking sunset off the shores of downtown and enjoy waterfront activities with their friends and families.

So whether you want to shop, eat, or just relax, head to Seaport Village - the fun is only minutes away.



Stephanie Kaylor, a Phoenix native dances with a man during live music August 5 at Seaport Village in downtown San Diego. Seaport Village, located downtown, has award winning restaurants as well as live entertainment daily.

Mechanics keep ‘Evil Eyes’ open

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

For a unit to function properly, every Marine must do his part. The airframe mechanics with Medium Marine Helicopter Squadron 163 are no exception.

Flight after flight, CH-46E Sea Knights undergo vigorous wear and tear and maintaining them is a neverending process. Day and night, airframe mechanics work through adverse conditions to keep the “helos” ready to fly.

“All maintenance Marines get the job done no matter what is asked of them and under any conditions they are asked to do it,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jason L. Bailes, airframes division chief, HMM-163, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. “These Marines work through extreme heat, cold rain, a fast tempo and a lack of manpower and always get the job done. I can’t really ask any more from them.”

From July 30 to Aug. 10, HMM-163 went on a detachment to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. to enable the pilots to complete annual Ground Threat Reaction qualifications. This detachment has given the airframe mechanics experience in working away from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. as well as working out in desert heat similar to Iraq.

“For some of my Marines, this is their first deployment; I want the new Marines to get some of the experience of being out in the field and being exposed to the different environments and a higher tempo,” Bailes added. “This is also good troubleshooting experience.”

All the Marines working on the flight line must work in unison. The Marines must understand a basic concept of other Marines jobs in order to maximize performance.

“My Marines do know multi-systems, it helps with the troubleshooting,” said Staff Sgt. Collin C. Bennett, flight line staff noncommissioned officer in charge, HMM-163. “Just because a Marine may find a problem with an aircraft, doesn’t mean it is his problem and they must be able to identify that.”



Two Marines double check the frame of a CH-46E Sea Knight during a preflight inspection Aug. 1. Airframe mechanic Marines must know how to work with the actual frame of the aircraft as well as the chemicals and oils the squadron uses on these aircraft.

Most of the deficiencies in the aircraft are found during one of three inspections the “helo” goes through on a regular basis. The aircraft crew chiefs conduct a daily inspection before flying and a turnaround inspection post flight. The pilots also do a preflight inspection of the aircraft to ensure nothing was missed.

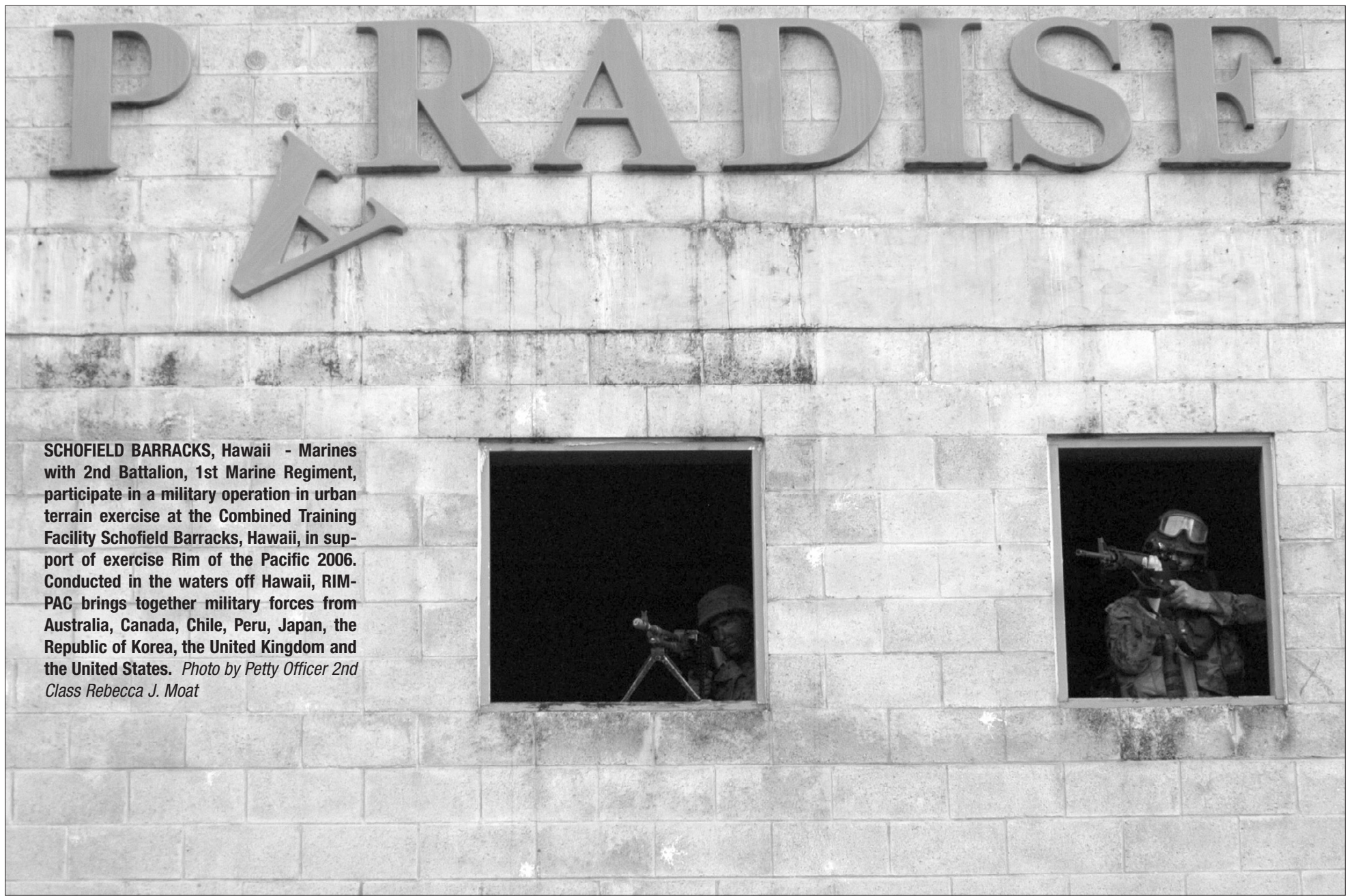
Most discrepancies are found by the crew chiefs or pilots while the aircraft is on the ground, explained Pfc. Ricky L. Wells, airframe mechanic, HMM-163.

The airframe mechanic’s main area of responsibilities are

the hydraulic systems, troubleshooting, and replacement of parts on the CH-46E.

“The most common problems I’ve dealt with are servicing the hydraulics and fixing the general wear and tear on the frame itself,” said Nikeyo Hoseng, airframe mechanic, HMM-163.

To help catch problems early, the airframe mechanics have an 18-inch rule. The 18-inch rule means that when a Marine is working on a specific area of the aircraft, they look around an 18 inch area for other deficiencies and corrects them if needed.



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii - Marines with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, participate in a military operation in urban terrain exercise at the Combined Training Facility Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in support of exercise Rim of the Pacific 2006. Conducted in the waters off Hawaii, RIMPAC brings together military forces from Australia, Canada, Chile, Peru, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States. *Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Rebecca J. Moat*

Announcements



Is this your Camaro?

The above vehicle has been marked for impound by the Provost Marshal's Office. To avoid having the vehicle towed, please store it in the Marine Corps Community Services or Traffic Management Office lots. Abandoned vehicles at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar present security risks as well as environmental and safety concerns. PMO attempts to identify and contact vehicle owners of illegally parked, abandoned vehicles prior to tagging the vehicle with a Department of Defense notice. Vehicles are then scheduled for towing three days following the notice. For more information, call 577-4139.

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information call 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:
97 Mercury Cougar	CA#5ERX749
95 Chevy Z71	NC#VNM8676
85 Lincoln Mark 8	CA#5EOC408
06 Kawasaki Motorcycle	TX#579PYF

Miramar Movies

The Bob Hope Theater is located on Elrod Ave. and will be featuring the following movies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, call 577-4143 or log on to www.mccsmiramar.com.

Friday:
6:30 p.m. Pirates of the Carribbean 2 (PG-13)
9:45 p.m. Click (PG-13)

Saturday:
1:00 p.m. *Nacho Libre (PG)
6:30 p.m. Click (PG-13)
9:00 p.m. The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13)

Sunday:
1:00 p.m. *Garfield: Tale of two Kitties (PG)
6:30 p.m. Advance Screening (PG-13)

Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. Little Man (PG-13)

Thursday:
1:30 p.m. USAA Family Day (LIVE)
2:00 p.m. The Wild (G)
6:30 p.m. *Waist Deep (R)

* Indicates the last showing for that film.

Retirement ceremony

There will be a retirement ceremony held for Staff Sgt. Michael A. Bjerklund after 20 years of service. The ceremony will be located at hangar 2 Aug. 25 at 12 p.m. The uniform of the day for Marines will be desert digitals. For civilians it will be proper civilian attire.

For more information contact Master Sgt. Patton at 577-1695.

Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain's Office at 577-1333.

Sunday:
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist
Wednesday:
7 p.m. Baptist service
Monday-Friday:
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass
Jewish:
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

WTC Memorial

There will be a World Trade Center Traveling Memorial sponsored by the San Diego Police Department open for viewing Friday from 12 to 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The memorial is located on 8388 Vickers street, San Diego. The memorial includes an extensive pictorial display, a video documentary and numerous genuine artifacts recovered from ground zero.

For more information contact, (858) 573-1199

Concert at Viejas

Viejas Entertainment presents a live concert Aug. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Viejas Outlet Center Park featuring world famous jazz artists Al Jarreau and George Benson. Free tickets are available for active duty-service members only at the Entertainment Ticket Office. There is a very limited amount of tickets and are first come, first serve. Two tickets per military I.D.

For more information contact, 577-4126.